

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT: MILI: JA
SUBJ: MAYORALITY ELECTIONS IN IWAKUNI AND SASEBO
SUMMARY: THERE ARE TWO U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN FUKUOKA'S
CONSULAR DISTRICT--THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION AT IWAKUNI, YAMAGUCHI
PREFECTURE, AND FLEET ACTIVITIES, SASEBO, NAGASAKI PREFECTURE. BOTH
MAYORS ARE RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION APRIL 27. AS EMBASSY AWARE,

PAGE TWO RUADLTA9652 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CITY-BASE RELATIONS ARE CRUCIAL ASPECT OF U.S. OPERATIONS UNDER
SECURITY TREATY, AND MAYORS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS.
SASEBO MAYOR ICHIZO TSUJI AND IWAKUNI MAYOR SHUNSUKE ASAEDA HAVE
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH BASES IN THEIR
CITIES THAT ARE (WE BELIEVE) THE BEST IN JAPAN. WE PREDICT BOTH
TSUJI AND ASAEDA WILL WIN. END SUMMARY.
IWAKUNI: IWAKUNI IS ONE OF THE MAJOR U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
IN JAPAN, AND HAS THE LARGEST MILITARY POPULATION (ABOUT 6,800)
OF ANY BASE OUTSIDE OKINAWA. RELATIONS BETWEEN MCAS, IWAKUNI,
AND ITS TENANT COMMANDS WITH THE CITY ARE QUITE GOOD, PARTICULARLY
WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE
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OPERATION OF AIRCRAFT. MAYOR SHUNSUKE ASAEDA HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL

IN THIS RELATIONSHIP, AND REGULARLY MEETS WITH MCAS COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS OF TENANT COMMANDS, MOST NOTABLY THE FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING.

ALTHOUGH ASAEDA WON HIS SECOND TERM IN 1971 WITH ONLY SLIGHTLY OVER HALF THE VOTES CAST, WE PREDICT A SOLID VICTORY FOR HIM. ASAEDA HAD BEEN ACTIVE IN JSP AND NIKKYOSO ACTIVITIES FOR MANY YEARS BEFORE JOINING THE DSP AT ITS INCEPTION IN 1959. HE

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RESIGNED FROM THE DSP IN 1965 TO PREPARE FOR HIS FIRST TRY FOR MAYOR IN 1967, BUT HIS TIES TO DSP AND DOMEI REMAIN STRONG. ASAEDA IS SHY, AND HAS LITTLE OF THE OUTGOING MANNER OF, FOR EXAMPLE, SASEBO'S MAYOR TSUJI; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE HE BASICALLY SUPPORTS THE SECURITY TREATY, AND, AS POINTED OUT ABOVE, HE WORKS VERY CLOSELY WITH MCAS AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN WORKING OUT A VERY GOOD CITY-BASE RELATIONSHIP.

ASAEDA'S MAIN COMPETITION WILL COME FROM TAKEO KAWAKAMI, A CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT. KAWAKAMI WAS CHIEF OF THE IWAKUNI BRANCH OF THE LDP FROM 1960-1974, AND RAN ON THE LDP TICKET IN THE 1971 MAYORALITY ELECTION, RECEIVING 25,767 VOTES TO ASAEDA'S 31,168. KAWAKAMI HAS A GREAT DEAL OF SUPPORT AMONG CONSERVATIVES IN THE CITY, AND IS RECEIVING OFFICIAL LDP SUPPORT, ALTHOUGH MOST LDP CITY ASSEMBLYMEN SUPPORT ASAEDA.

THIRD CANDIDATE IS JCP MEMBER NOBUO MURASHIGE. ALTHOUGH HE WILL GET COMMUNIST AND CERTAIN OTHER LEFTIST VOTES, JCP CANDIDATE IN 1971 ELECTION RECEIVED LESS THAN FIVE PERCENT OF VOTE, AND WE BELIEVE MURASHIGE HAS NO CHANCE TO WIN.

SASEBO: THERE ARE MORE CANDIDATES IN THE SASEBO MAYORALITY ELECTION

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THAN IWAKUNI, AND THE SITUATION IS MURKIER. INCUMBENT CONSERVATIVE ICHIZO TSUJI WILL BE GOING FOR HIS FOURTH TERM AND WILL RECEIVE HIS MAIN SUPPORT FROM THE LDP, DSP, DOMEI AND SASEBO HEAVY INDUSTRIES, THE CITY'S MAIN EMPLOYER. HIS MAIN COMPETITOR WILL BE CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT TORAO KUCHII, AN EX-SPEAKER OF THE CITY ASSEMBLY. KUCHII IS WELL KNOWN IN SASEBO, AND WILL DOUBTLESS GET A NUMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF VOTES THAT WOULD OTHERWISE GO TO TSUJI.

A STRONG CANDIDATE IS MASANAO YAGAMI, AN INDEPENDENT, WHO WAS A FOUR-TERM JSP PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLYMAN. YAGAMI IS THE PRESIDENT OF A LARGE TAXI COMPANY, AND WILL RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM BOTH THE SOCIALISTS AND KOMEITO.

THERE ARE TWO OTHER CANDIDATES. ONE IS CHIAKI YAMASHITA OF THE JCP. YAMASHITA IS THE SASEBO BRANCH CHIEF OF AKAHATA, AND A FULL-TIME COMMITTEE MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN NAGASAKI PREFECTURAL

DISTRICT OF THE JCP. THE OTHER CANDIDATE IS YOSHIO OHTA, A
76-YEAR OLD INDEPENDENT WHO ANNOUNCED LATE. BOTH YAMASHITA AND
OHTA ARE NOT SERIOUS CONTENDERS.
COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT CITY-BASE RELATIONS AT IWAKUNI AND
SASEBO ARE PROBABLY THE BEST IN JAPAN, AND THE CONSERVATIVE

PAGE FIVE RUADLTA9652 C O N F I D E N T I A L
MAYORS OF THOSE CITIES DESERVE A GREAT DEAL OF THE CREDIT. BOTH
HAVE GONE BEYOND WHAT COULD REASONABLY BE EXPECTED IN AN EFFORT
TO HELP AMERICANS ATTACHED TO THE BASES, SOMETIMES AT POLITICAL
COST TO THEMSELVES. WE BELIEVE MAYORS OF BOTH CITIES WILL WIN,
AND THAT WE WILL HAVE ASAEDA AND TSUJI TO WORK WITH FOR ANOTHER
FOUR YEARS.
RICHARDSON

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